

Outlook

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND FACULTY AND STAFF WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Volume 18 • Number 13 • December 10, 2002

Giving New Students That Extra Boost

Editor's note: This is the final article in a series highlighting those areas in which the university placed in U.S. News and World Report rankings categories that reflect the quality of the overall undergraduate experience.

Slightly more than half of the University's incoming freshmen take advantage of one of several programs designed to make their subsequent years at Maryland as productive and enjoyable as possible. In many cases, the programs give faculty and staff an enriched experience, as well.

Though many of the first-year programs offered are traditional, such as orientation and honors, several others provide students more interesting ways to create smaller communities on a large campus. It is the quality and diversity of these programs that seemed to capture the attention of U.S. News and World Report, as it ranked the university's first-year programs #12 in the nation. Considering that 40 percent of campus

See **RANKINGS**, page 8

Extending Care Beyond University's Walls



PHOTO COURTESY OF W. MALLOY

Above, left to right: Wilbur Malloy, his wife Vivian, their two sons Kenneth and Jonathan and Thomas Jenkins, Vivian Malloy's father celebrate the grand opening of the People's Community Wellness Center. Volunteering at the center has become a family affair.

For some of Montgomery County's poorest residents, the struggle to fund every day expenses, such as putting food on the table or making rent payments, quickly forces health care out of the budget.

Wilbur Malloy, the University Health Center's assistant director of student health

services, is helping to change that.

Every Tuesday and Thursday after work, Malloy leaves his office at the Health Center and drives to Silver Spring, where he volunteers his time as project administrator for the People's Community Wellness Center, a primary care clinic for low-

income, uninsured or underinsured adults in Montgomery County. By providing accessible health care, the center is helping to diminish health disparities that exist among racial minorities, especially blacks.

"I enjoy the idea of giving

See **MALLOY**, page 4

Let it Snow! University Prepares for Inclement Weather

As the temperature drops and winter looms near, the university would like to remind the campus community of its policies and procedures for inclement weather. An abbreviated version is below. The full text can be found at www.inform.umd.edu/nowandthen/news/incweatherpro.html.

In case of a weather emergency in the morning, the university will announce its status on the university home page and on the snow hot line (301-405-SNOW) by 6 a.m. Information will also be provided to local radio and television stations, but individuals should not rely on the news media for accurate information. In the case of a weather emergency during the day, early closings will be announced as quickly as possible on the university Web site, the snow hot line and through the media to allow for a safe, orderly exit from the campus.

These guidelines describe the procedures the University of Maryland follows in response to inclement weather conditions.

II. Inclement Weather

The term "inclement weather" refers to the conditions that constitute a hazardous weather emergency, as determined by the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost in consultation with the Department of Facilities Management.

III. Cancellation of Classes and Programs

Where the terms "delayed opening," "early closing" and "campus closed" are used in notices, they will be understood to mean that, for a specified period of time, all classes will be canceled, and all university offices and non-essential services will be closed, except those specifically excepted in the notices. The sponsors and coordinators of scheduled events and programs will determine their status, and will communicate directly with their guests and participants.

IV. Reporting for Class and Work

University students and employees are expected to report for classes and work as scheduled, unless otherwise notified through established campus procedures. They are also expected to exercise good judgment regarding their personal circumstances.

The president (or designee) may

See **SNOW**, page 5

Looking to Improve Graduate Life New Coordinator Surveys Students

Some people think graduate students are on campus with the sole purpose of seeking their degree. This is not true, according to a survey conducted by the coordinator of graduate student involvement, the Stamp Student Union and Campus Programs Research Advisory Group.

The survey was administered in April 2002 on the Web to 2,000 randomly selected graduate students and resulted in a 32.5 percent response rate (650 completed surveys), which was a "great response and a nice surprise," said Jason Pontius the newly appointed coordinator of graduate student involvement.

"With this new position, I wanted to better understand the needs of graduate students on campus and provide a baseline for measuring improve-

See **SURVEY**, page 5

Faculty Member Honored, Scholarship Created

A new fund intended to aid special education students and faculty with paying for research and development activities is being named after Jean Hebel, the woman who is credited with gaining departmental status for the Special Education Program.

The Special Education Endowed Fund in Honor of Jean R. Hebel will present its first four awards, three to undergraduate students and one to a graduate student, in the spring semester.

"There is a tremendous need for special education teachers and we always need help in terms of finding good teachers," said Jacqueline Eig, co-chair of the endowment fund. "The awards are extremely helpful in



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA MITCHEL

Jean Hebel's many contributions to special education will be honored with the new scholarship named for her.

getting more teachers through school."

Volunteers and faculty members started working on the fund in 1999 and decided to name it after Hebel because of her accomplishments in special education at Maryland.

Hebel came to College Park in 1960, after getting an educational doctorate from Syracuse University. In her first year at the university, she established a chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC). Working with the CEC, she successfully lobbied Congress for the Education of All Handicapped Children Act, which was passed into law in 1975. This required

See **FUND**, page 5

dateline maryland

YOUR GUIDE TO UNIVERSITY EVENTS: DECEMBER 10-16

TUESDAY

december 10

3:30-5 p.m., Numerical Analysis Seminar 3206 Math Building 3206. Susan Minkoff from the University of Maryland Baltimore County will be speaking. For more information, contact Tobias von Petersdorff at tvp@math.umd.edu or visit www.math.umd.edu/dept/seminars/nas.

4 p.m., Search for Corrections to Newton's Gravity at Sub-Mm Levels Physics Lecture Hall. Colloquium given by Aharon Kapitulnik. Starting at 3:30 p.m., refreshments will be served for a small fee. For more information, call 5-3401.

5 p.m., Guarneri String Quartet Open Rehearsal Gildenhorn Recital Hall, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. The revered ensemble celebrates its 20th year of residence at the School of Music. Free. For more information, call (301) 405-ARTS.

5:30 p.m., Take Five: Robert Gibson and Chris Patton Laboratory Theatre, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. Take Five on Tuesdays series presents the latest in music technology from Robert Gibson and Chris Patton. Take Five is a free, informal series offering an opportunity to experience a wide range of artistic areas. For more information, call (301) 405-ARTS.

8 p.m., Music From the Court of Francois I Gildenhorn Recital Hall, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. The early music ensemble will perform French music from the court of King Francois I (1515-1547). Free. For more information, call (301) 405-ARTS.

WEDNESDAY

december 11

4-5:30 p.m., Are you Interested in Developing Your Leadership Skills 0105 Jimenez. For more information, contact ckelly@wam.umd.edu.

4:15-6 p.m., Stimulating High Achievement Using Technology 1315 Benjamin Building. A colloquium sponsored by the Institute for Minority Achievement and

Campus as Winter Wonderland



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA MITCHEL

The effects of the storm last Thursday were felt campus wide with several inches of powdery white on the ground and a snow day for most staff and faculty. Though it was warm inside, nothing but snow was on the menu at the Rossborough Inn's outdoor tables!

Urban Education. For more information, contact Dr. Martin L. Johnson at mj13@umail.umd.edu or visit www.education.umd.edu/MIMAUE.

5 p.m., New Dances Dance Theatre, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. This informal program of non-adjudicated dance works will be presented by the Student Dance Association. Free. For more information, call (301) 405-3189.

7:30 p.m., Chamber Music Honors Recital Gildenhorn Recital Hall, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. Showcasing the most accomplished ensembles in the School of Music. Free. For more information, call (301) 405-ARTS.

7:30 p.m., Winter Jazz Showcase Kay Theatre, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. Featuring the Maryland Jazz Ensemble, the "Monster" Jazz Lab Band and the University Jazz Band. Tickets are \$15, \$5 for students. For more information, call (301) 405-ARTS.

8-10:30 p.m., Gospel Happy Hour (Holiday Edition) Nyumburu Cultural Center. Poetry, music, improv, dancing

and Mr. and Miss Holiday competition. Featuring special guests, Terrapin Praise. Dinner will be served. For more information, contact Tracy Degraffinreid at (301) 226-0823 or tdegraff@wam.umd.edu, or visit www.anqkappa.com.

FRIDAY

december 13

9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Poinsettia Sale Harrison Lab Greenhouses. Over 80 varieties with bract colors or white, shades of red and pink, and bi-colors. For more information, call Catherine at 5-4376.

8 p.m., Annual Kaleidoscope of Bands Dekelbourn Concert Hall, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. Featuring the Maryland Symphonic Wind Ensemble and the Concert Band. Tickets are \$15, \$5 for students. For more information, call (301) 405-ARTS.

SUNDAY

december 15

3 p.m., Winter Children's Concert Dekelbourn Concert Hall, Clarice Smith Performing

Businesses Should Respond to AIDS Epidemic

Speakers Explain Why It's Everyone's Business

An audience of approximately 30 gathered in Van Munching Hall last week for the first Smith Students Against AIDS event, a roundtable discussion concerning the business aspects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

In a salute to World AIDS Day the previous Sunday, the Robert H. Smith School of Business and the Maryland School of Public Affairs worked together to organize the seminar. Three speakers enlightened audience members, explaining why businesses, especially those in developing areas like sub-Saharan Africa, should be concerned with HIV/AIDS.

David Crocker, senior research scholar at the Institute for Philosophy and Public Policy and the Maryland School of Public Affairs, acted as moderator for the event. He began the seminar by presenting an overview of the causes and consequences of HIV/AIDS with respect to stigma and economic, political and moral costs.

"We're proactive here tonight," Crocker said, commending audience members.

Each speaker made a 15- to 20-minute presentation, followed by a short question and answer segment and pizza in the lobby.

Steven Forsythe, director of planning and finance

HIV/AIDS at The Futures Group International, presented various cases studies that exemplified the importance of convincing companies to provide anti-retroviral therapy to employees. Forsythe, who has a doctorate in health economics, pointed out that few companies in the developing world have invested in HIV/AIDS services. He explained that since businesses believe the cost-benefit of HIV/AIDS therapy is not effective, they disregard the idea and place the concern on family members instead.

Matthew Roberts, project director of the HIV/AIDS Global Workplace Prevention and Education Program (SMARTWork), reviewed many reasons why businesses, especially in developing countries, should be concerned with the HIV/AIDS epidemic. He pointed out that companies will lose profits as infected employees continue to die.

"In terms of life expectancy rates, there are some chilling statistics," Roberts said.

On a chart that was part of his PowerPoint presentation, Roberts showed audience members that in the next decade, the life expectancy in Botswana will drop by 25 years. Roberts explained that companies will lose their

See HIV/AIDS, page 6

Arts Center. The student-based chamber orchestra will present a concert of two family favorites: Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf" and "Carnival of the Animals" by Saint-Saens. Free. For more information, call (301) 405-ARTS.

7 p.m., University Chamber Singers and Chamber Orchestra: The Christmas Oratorio Dekelbourn Concert Hall, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. Bach's masterwork of six cantatas performed by students and distinguished faculty artists with music director Kenneth Slowik, artistic director of the Smithsonian Chamber Music Society. A concert of the Scholarship Benefit Series, providing scholarship support for students of the School, presented by the School of Music. Tickets are \$20, \$15 for students. For more information, call (301) 405-ARTS.

For additional event listings, visit www.collegepublisher.com/outlook.

Outlook

Outlook is the weekly faculty-staff newspaper serving the University of Maryland campus community.

Brodie Remington • Vice President for University Relations

Teresa Flannery • Executive Director, University Communications and Marketing

George Cathcart • Executive Editor

Monette Austin Bailey • Editor

Cynthia Mitchel • Art Director

Robert K. Gardner • Graduate Assistant

Letters to the editor, story suggestions and campus information are welcome. Please submit all material two weeks before the Tuesday of publication.

Send material to Editor, Outlook, 2101 Turner Hall, College Park, MD 20742

Telephone • (301) 405-4629

Fax • (301) 314-9344

E-mail • outlook@accmail.umd.edu
www.collegepublisher.com/outlook



calendar guide

Calendar phone numbers listed as 4-xxxx or 5-xxxx stand for the prefix 314 or 405. Calendar information for Outlook is compiled from a combination of Inform's master calendar and submissions to the Outlook office. Submissions are due two weeks prior to the date of publication. To reach the calendar editor, call 405-7615 or send e-mail to outlook@accmail.umd.edu.

Stages

NEWS FROM THE CLARICE SMITH

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Modern Dance: It's What Works for You

Modern dance—it's an art form that expresses a new way of looking at movement. It's continually evolving, and sometimes hard to explain. How do we approach it and how we can we get the most out of our enjoyment of this unique art?

Professor Meriam Rosen of the university's School of Dance shared her thoughts on the essence of modern dance. "It's about seeing what's in front of you rather than going in with pre-conceptions," she explains. "So much of what we get from modern dance is based on our personal experience." Modern dance pioneer Alwin Nikolais best summed it up: "We allow the spectators to retrieve memory."

Rosen notes that modern dance is an individual expressive art that takes many forms. "So often audiences try to distinguish between dance as art and dance as entertainment. It is what it is, and can be many things to many people. Our past experiences and present expectations influence how we perceive and what we take away from a modern dance performance. It is not something structured that goes from A to B. It's not a story. It's a different kind of experience."

"The more an audience can empty its cup of specific expectations, the more likely it is to receive what is presented. The fact that the audience doesn't get a specific idea shouldn't be cause for worry. Instead, does it allow you to feel something? Does it bring up thoughts, ideas, connections within your own life and relationships to art forms? The important thing is to allow what images come and not worry if they make sense."

So much of it depends on what appeals to you. Are you open and willing to accept something new and different? You only get out of it what works for you.

"With modern dance," says Rosen, "you can't say if you like this, then you'll like that. It's a curious form that's hard to put a label on."



Dan Wagoner

"You have to love dancing to stick to it. It gives you nothing back, no manuscripts to store away, no paintings to show on walls and maybe hang in museums, no poems to be printed and sold, nothing but that fleeting moment when you feel alive. It is not for unsteady souls."

—Merce Cunningham

But if you're willing to be part of whatever it is, then it will work for you."

Rosen is enthusiastic about the upcoming January repertory residency of renowned American modern dance choreographer Dan Wagoner. Wagoner will work with selected dancers in creating a new work for the Maryland Dance Ensemble to be presented this spring at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center. Wagoner has danced with Martha Graham, Merce Cunningham and Paul Taylor. For 25 years, he directed his own New York-based company, Dan Wagoner and Dancers, where he choreographed more than 55 dances and performed throughout the world.

For ticket information or to request a season brochure, contact the Ticket Office at 301.405.ARTS or visit www.claricesmithcenter.umd.edu.

**CLARICE SMITH
PERFORMING ARTS
CENTER AT MARYLAND**

Smith Performing Arts Library Dedicated



PHOTO BY JOHN T. CONSOLI

At ceremonies held Nov. 26, the Performing Arts Library at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center was officially dedicated and named for Michelle Smith (second from left), daughter of Robert H. and Clarice Smith, well known area philanthropists and generous supporters of the University of Maryland. Smith is a founding member of the center's new Leadership Council. She is also honored at the University of Maryland by the Michelle Smith Professorship of Logistics at the Smith School of Business. President Dan Mote, Robert H. Smith and Dean of Libraries Charles Lowry joined Smith for the occasion.

Coming from Different Worlds: A Musical Collaboration Flourishes

Music knows no boundaries as Israeli cellist Inbal Megiddo and Israeli-Arab pianist Saleem Abboud Ashkar grace the stage of the Gildenhorn Recital Hall of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center on Thursday, Jan. 9 in a co-presentation with the Embassy of Israel at 8 p.m.

The duo will present a classical repertoire including "Sonata in A major" by Luigi Boccherini, "Sonata in D minor, op. 40" by Dmitri Shostakovich, Bach's "Gamba Sonata D" "Major, Spiegel im Spiegel" by Arvo Pärt, "Suite Populaire Espagnole" by Manuel De Falla and "Hungarian Rhapsody" by David Popper.

In a 1995 interview with Yale University's Daily News, Megiddo, the child of an Israeli diplomat, saw her first cello when she was only 2 years old and soon began practicing. In 1983, at the age of 6, she won the first of several scholarships. It was after meeting and studying with Russian cellist Mstislav Rostropovich that the 15-year-old

Megiddo was inspired to become a stage performer. Megiddo was hailed at her recent New York Lincoln Center debut as having "magical expression and technical expertise." She has performed around the world as soloist with several ensembles including the Prague Chamber Orchestra and the Boston Classical Orchestra and has given numerous recitals in Europe, Asia and America.

At the invitation of the Singapore government in 1995, Megiddo was the featured soloist at the official celebration of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations in Singapore. In 1995, she performed the Kaddish at the memorial service for Israel's slain former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in New York City's Madison Square Garden. There she performed a solo piece and accompanied a choir before an estimated 19,000 mourners.

Born in 1976 in Nazareth, Israel, Saleem Abboud Ashkar has won recognition for his talents since the age of 10. He

made his Carnegie Hall debut in New York, at the age of 22, under the direction of Maestro Daniel Barenboim, and has played with such world-renowned orchestras as the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Berlin Staatsoper Orchestra, the Gewandhaus Orchestra in Leipzig and many others. He has worked with such conductors as Daniel Barenboim, Zubin Mehta, Lorance Foster and others. A highlight of his career was his participation in the Ruhrgebit Piano Festival, Germany, where he was awarded the festival's prize of "The Young Talent of the Year 2000." Ashkar has given numerous recitals around the world and plays regularly with most of the orchestras in Israel including the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra, Israeli Chamber Orchestra, the Jerusalem Kammerata and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra. In 1998, Ashkar was awarded the Palestine Prize.

Tickets for this event are \$25. For more information, call (301)405.ARTS.

Malloy: Filling Health Need

Continued from page 1



PHOTO COURTESY OF W. MALLOY

Above, Malloy addresses those gathered at the grand opening of the People's Community Wellness Center last month as Montgomery County Executive Douglas Duncan (l) and Thomas J. Baltimore, pastor of the People's Community Baptist Church in Silver Spring, look on.

something back to the community," said Malloy, 54. "It's my own passion."

Since the center opened its doors in August, it has been offering free medical care every Tuesday and Thursday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. to residents who meet the county's low-income guidelines. The center is co-sponsored by the county Department of Health and Human Services and the People's Community Baptist Church, of which Malloy is a member.

Services provided include care for acute illness and chronic medical conditions, laboratory tests, immunizations, routine physical examinations and nutrition and lifestyle management counseling.

"Some of the patients, this is their first time going to a doctor in six, seven years," Malloy said. "The cost of an office visit is expensive."

The idea for the center began in spring 2001 when T.J. Baltimore, founder and senior minister of the church, came up with the idea in response to the county's pledge to reduce health disparities in black and other minority communities.

In July 2001, the church received a \$65,000 Rewarding Work Grant from the county to fund the center. Most of that money went toward equipment and other startup costs, Malloy said. A second grant was awarded this year and will enable the center to continue serving the community.

About 9 percent of adults in the county are uninsured, according to the county Department of Health and Human Services. Minority residents, who are at a greater risk for health problems, now make up 40 percent of the county population, up from 27 percent in 1990, census data show.

"Most of us think we live in a very affluent society, and we do. But there's about 44 million people in America with no

health insurance," Malloy said.

The lack of access to affordable health care is costing the black community dearly, said Lizzie James, coordinator of the county Department of Health and Human Services' African American Health Initiative.

Infant mortality, diabetes, hypertension, HIV and AIDS and oral and other cancers are a just a few of the many health problems that occur at disproportionately high rates among blacks in Montgomery County, said James. Low income and lack of insurance greatly contribute to the high disease rates, she said.

But health disparities cannot be explained by economic factors alone, James said.

There is some lack of trust in health care professionals among blacks, she said. Additionally, doctors may not understand some of the problems facing the black community.

"It's not an overt type of racism. It's more a group may underestimate a population's health problems," she said. "Sometimes doctors don't even realize they're doing it."

Education and prevention are important steps in reducing health problems for blacks, she said. The Health Initiative is taking such steps with cancer screenings, smoking cessation programs and nutrition counseling services.

Clinics such as the People's Community Wellness Center are also an effective way of reaching the community, she said. The center is one of about a half-dozen such clinics in the county, she said.

Malloy said the center's location in the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center on Briggs Chaney Road help make it more accessible to the community. The area has a large population of single family, low-income housing, he said.

—Justyn Kopack, senior, journalism

Managing Change Combats Anxiety

Change is inevitable, but how effectively individuals incorporate change into their lives depends on their response to the transformation. Thomas Ruggieri, a coordinator for the Faculty Staff Assistance Program (FSAP), recently presented a seminar dealing with the complexity of change called, "How To Make Change Work For You." The symposium is part of the Brown Bag Lunch Series provided by The Center for Health and Wellbeing.

Ruggieri stressed the importance of discovering methods to anticipate growth opportunities from change situations. "More often than not people come out of a change better than they went in," said Ruggieri, who has been working with FSAP since 1988.

Change gives people the opportunity to find out about themselves, explained Ruggieri. "You have two choices; you can run or you can change," he said.

People begin to have adjustment problems when presented with a new environment, new co-workers or a change in social structure that challenges their usual manner of coping. Not being able to transition effectively is merely a "skill deficit," said Ruggieri; "learning 'change skills' just takes practice."

Though people generally believe they possess control over their lives, in actuality unwelcoming change is

unavoidable. Encountering significant change, either positive or negative, can lead to an unnerving perception of how little power an individual has over his or her life.

Usually the "what ifs" and "worst case scenarios" are what fuel anxiety, said Ruggieri. Talking about their biggest anxieties helps patients realize they have more resources available than they recognize. For example, if a person loses their job, often their biggest fear is that they will also lose their house. A counselor would encourage them to talk about their options if their worst case scenario occurred, like temporarily living with a friend or family member until they are financially stable again.

Ruggieri compared the stages of change to a castaway trying to escape a deserted island. First, the castaway must overcome the initial waves of the coastline; this is analogous to accepting any preliminary fears and choosing to implement a definite plan of action.

As the castaway overcomes the waves he begins to see sharks circling around his raft, these are the "worst case scenarios" that often arise in times of crisis. A fierce storm begins to develop and the castaway becomes afraid. He cannot retreat to land, because there is no land in sight, he must weather the storm.

"Sometimes pure fear is motivation through this stage,"

said Ruggieri.

This transition phase is called the "foggy middle," it is the longest and often most distressing portion of the change process. There is no turning back, but the future is still uncertain. Tolerating the "fog of uncertainty" is the best way to endure this stage.

As in all great movies, the final scene is "on firm ground." The person in crisis, like the castaway, will make it to shore. Though the castaway reached the shore it will take time to adjust to his new life, and all changes require time and patience.

Ruggieri advises people dealing with change to not forget about their physical and psychological well-being. People under the stress of change need to make time participate in activities that will make them happy and restore their energy.

"You really have to pay attention to taking care of yourself even though it's the last thing on your agenda," said Ruggieri. Stress is very draining to a person; "just like a car's fuel," he said, "you have to fill yourself back up."

The Faculty Staff Assistance Program can be contacted at (301) 314-8170 or visit their Web site at www.umd.edu/fsap. Thomas Ruggieri can be contacted through FSAP or at ruggieri@health.umd.edu.

—Kelyanne Brady, junior, journalism

Small Businesses Get a Boost

The future is looking bright for the Maryland Small Business Development Center, housed at the University of Maryland, because of new up-to-date programs along with continued state and university support.

"Small businesses are the cornerstone of any community," said Glenna Cush, a business counselor at the center, especially since 90 percent of all businesses are small business enterprises.

The Maryland Small Business Development Center Network (MDSBDC) assists entrepreneurs to establish, manage and expand their businesses by providing a vast array of counseling and training services. The center was previously in the state's Office of Business and Economic Development and has been hosted by the University of Maryland, College Park for the past eight years.

MDSBDC Network is a partnership between the U.S. Small Business Administration, the state of Maryland and the university. This partnership helps to link private, enterprise, government, higher education and

local economic development organizations to provide the best management training and resources to small businesses throughout the state.

The development center takes a federal program and puts it on a local level, Cush said. "We like to call the services we provide as a non-cost management and consulting firm for small businesses," Cush said.

Consulting services at the center are confidential and available at no cost to all small business entrepreneurs. These services aid business owners by helping them draft and develop business plans, solve problems, find sources of capital, update technology and brainstorm methods to increase growth and profits for the business.

Training programs and courses allow small business owners to meet and collectively discuss issues and ideas they encounter. The two-hour courses, offered in the evening for a small fee, are taught by skilled, certified professionals who have owned or managed a business in the past.

"We are particularly proud of our PTAP program," Cush

added. The center recently received \$300,000 in funding from the U.S. Defense agency to get the Procurement Technology Assistance Program.

PTAP helps the center's clients to prepare bids to obtain property, products and goods.

"PTAP allows Maryland residents to get a piece of that big procurement pie," Cush said.

The center bid to host the program, beating out other institutions and organizations, including the Prince George's Economic Development Center.

Brian Darmody, dean for research and graduate studies, agrees that the continued administrative support from both the university and the state is creating a positive outlook for the center's future.

"We have a service mission to help the state," Darmody said. By housing the center, the university is providing service outreach to the state of Maryland.

"MDSBDC reaches out to the largest sector of the Maryland economy—the private sector," Darmody said.

—Meghan Hirst, junior, journalism

Snow: University Plan

Continued from page 1



FILE PHOTO BY CYNTHIA MITCHEL

declare a policy of Liberal Leave, in which case non-essential employees who choose not to report to work, or to report late, or to leave early because of weather conditions not yet declared a hazardous weather emergency may be excused. Such excused absences will be charged to appropriate paid or unpaid leave.

Essential employees are required to report for duty and to perform their duties despite the notification of a weather-related emergency. The term "essential employee" will be deemed to include an employee of a facility who has been designated as vital to the operation of the facility, whose presence is required regardless of the existence of an emergency condition, and whose absence from duty would endanger the safety and well being of the campus population and/or physical plant. Employees are advised to consult with their supervisors to determine whether they are essential or non-essential employees, and to obtain specific information about the proper reporting procedures.

In those circumstances in which faculty members are unable to meet with their classes due to weather conditions that do not result in delayed openings or campus closings, faculty are expected to consult with their department chairpersons prior to canceling their classes.

V. Procedures:

A. The senior vice president for academic affairs and provost will be responsible for determining when safety considerations require delayed openings or campus closings. This decision will be made in consultation with the Snow Command Center in Facilities Management regarding the following fac-

tors:

1. Type of forecast conditions (i.e., wind, snow, ice)
2. Severity of forecast conditions
3. Reliability of the forecast
4. Temperature
5. Visibility
6. Conditions of campus roads, parking areas, sidewalks and exterior steps
7. Readiness and mobilization level of grounds maintenance operations
8. Feasibility of continued operation of ShuttleUM
9. Traffic and roadway conditions in surrounding vicinity
10. Conditions at the University of Maryland University College campus
11. Impact on the academic program
12. Implications for the academic calendar, including the commencement and semester breaks

B. Closings and Delayed Openings:

When conditions are predicted to affect the daytime schedule, reasonable effort will be made to announce delayed opening of campus facilities or campus closing no later than 6:00 a.m. When conditions develop during the business day or are predicted to occur during the evening hours, closings will be announced as soon as practicable. The announcement will include the time at which the closing will take effect.

When conditions are predicted to occur during weekends, holidays and breaks, the status of the campus will be determined in accordance with the procedure described in section V.A, above. In addition, program sponsors and coordinators will consult directly with the Snow Command Center regarding the status of any events or programs scheduled to occur during such weekends, holidays and breaks.

Fund: To Honor Mentor

Continued from page 1

all states to provide a free public education to all children with disabilities.

Hebeler was the dean of College of Education from 1991-1993. She retired from the university in 1994, but still keeps an office on campus and is very active in advising students and helping them with research.

"The other day I said something to somebody about retiring and they said, 'you already are retired,' she said. 'I said, 'I think I need to do it again.'"

Hebeler also works with the fund committee, which consists of alumni and faculty members, in raising funds and designating recipients of the awards. The committee has raised more than \$30,000 through mailings and a kickoff banquet held last November, Hebeler said.

The committee presents awards to applicants based

on financial need and merit, she said. Scholars are eligible to receive the award multiple times if the committee decides they deserve it.

Hebeler said she first realized she wanted to pursue a career in special education when she was in grade school. Attending a small rural school near Buffalo, New York, she witnessed how less-intelligent students were not given opportunities.

"I had an interest in students who couldn't make it and I've never regretted it," Hebeler said.

Eig, who claims Hebeler as a mentor in college, said that Hebeler was the perfect person to honor with the fund.

"She's one of those people that always gives back and is very caring about [special education]," said Eig.

—Josh Schultz, junior, journalism

Survey: Grads Content

Continued from page 1

ments," said Pontius.

As the coordinator of graduate student involvement, Pontius serves as an advocate for graduate student needs on campus. He also works as a liaison between the graduate school and the office of campus programs, schedules graduate student events and programs and serves as an advisor for Graduate Student Government. He has a degree in psychology from the University of Virginia and a master's degree in higher education administration from Indiana University.

Pontius has been at Maryland since October 2001. Prior to his job at the university, he was the director of student activities at Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga. While working towards his master's degree, Pontius worked in the resident life and campus programming departments.

"Graduate students are a distinct population with their own set of specific needs," said Pontius. Even though the graduate students do have concerns with the university, 82 percent enjoy being students and feel that the university provides an education of high quality, he continued.

Eighty-three percent of graduate students are interested in socializing with other graduate students. Pontius is cooperating with Campus Recreation Services to start promoting graduate student outdoor recreation

events.

Pontius has also worked to create and promote the weekly Graduate Pub program. He started a Lyceum Dinner Series where graduate students discuss issues that affect their quality of life. A graduate practicum student was hired to plan social events off campus. "The general theme for all these programs is to increase cross-discipline social interaction of graduate students with the hopes of combating isolation," Pontius said.

Another finding of the survey was that graduate students would rather be treated more like faculty and staff and less like undergraduates, Pontius said. For example, many graduate students feel they should receive University Bookstore discounts because they do a substantial amount of teaching, research and administrative tasks at Maryland, which is more than most undergraduates do.

Conducted with the help of many people and groups, "the survey simply wouldn't have been possible without the support of Terry Zacker and the members of the Stamp Student Union and Campus Programs Research Advisory group," said Pontius. "Additionally, I received valuable support from the Graduate School, Graduate Student Government and the Campus Assessment Working Group," Pontius said.

—Jenni Chew, junior, journalism



Notable

Marla McIntosh was recently named as a fellow of the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, and Soil Science of America during the 2002 ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meeting in Indianapolis. Criteria for the award included superior achievement in research, education, or profession as public service, meritorious service to one or more of the societies, and a minimum for 10 years of membership. McIntosh was featured in a society's news magazine as one of only two women among a host of men to receive such an honor.

"Driving Customer Equity: How Customer Lifetime Value is Reshaping Corporate Strategy," a book co-authored by **Roland T. Rust**, David Bruce Smith Chair in Marketing at Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business and director of the Center for e-Service, has been named the 2002 winner of the Berry-AMA Book Prize for the Best Book in Marketing by the American Marketing Association Foundation. Established by Leonard L. Berry, distinguished author and professor, this new, annual award recognizes the top marketing work in innovation of ideas and overall impact on marketing and related fields.

Since the book, co-written by Valarie A. Zeithaml and Katherine N. Lemon, was published, at least three of the top 10 Fortune 500 companies have adopted the strategic framework outlined in the book, and many others are following.

Lucy McFadden and **Dennis Wellnitz** both received NASA Group Achievement Awards for their work with the Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous Shoemaker Mission Team. McFadden and Wellnitz analyzed near-IR spectra to determine that the surface of asteroid Eros is closest to the composition of an ordinary chondrite meteorite and is not differentiated by thermal processes.

Delia Neuman, associate professor in the College of Information Studies, has been elected to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT). With a history that extends for over 75 years, AECT is the world's oldest professional organization devoted to the study of technology and learning.

Hinman CEOs Program was recognized as a national leader in entrepreneurship education with the Price Institute Innovative Entrepreneurship Award. The honor, in its first year, was bestowed during the Roundtable on Entrepreneurship Education for Engineers. Maryland beat out Harvard, Georgia Tech, Case Western and University of Southern California, among others.

Extracurricular

Singer Shares Her Gift

To hear Angie Bass tell it, singing comes as naturally to her as waking up in the morning. In fact, it's how she starts each day at work.

"I come in at 8 o'clock, put on my music and just sing," says Bass, who is program coordinator for nonexempt employees for the Office of Human Rela-

tion and Sing," jokes that Bass is no stranger to microphones.

Bass smiles at the barb. Yes, she does like to sing, but she has her nervous moments, as well. "Every time before I go on stage, I ask God to please help me remember the lyrics. I tell myself, 'Don't freeze up, Angie. Why are you doing this?' But



PHOTO BY MONETTE AUSTIN BAILEY

Angie Bass

tions Programs. "It helps me start the day."

Bass was raised in the small nearby community of Lakeland and grew up singing at Emory AME Church. She calls her voice a gift from God and she shares this gift at every opportunity. Several area churches have heard Bass' strong, expressive voice, as have members of the campus community. She can be found singing at her office's new employee orientation, the Black Faculty Staff Association conference, before basketball games and at talent shows. She's also a fixture in her community; singing at weddings, anniversaries and going home, or funeral, services.

"I sang at the opening of the community center and sometimes I walk outside my front door and just sing," she says. "People say, 'Oh there goes Angie.' Sometimes they pull up chairs."

Not just a gospel singer, Bass spent eight years singing with local bands that opened for Aretha Franklin, soul and go-go artist Chuck Brown and James Brown. Colleague Mark Brimhall-Vargas, who once accompanied Bass on his harp for a National Association for Multicultural Education conference performance of the Black National Anthem, "Lift Ev'ry

once I'm motivated and I start, I'm OK."

After doing some studio time recording jingles for local businesses, Bass hopes to get back to recording and produce her own CD. She had a taste of showbiz life during a recent Fox 5 News "DC Idol" special broadcast from Lasick's College Inn on Route 1. Following in the pattern of the popular "American Idol" television show, the event featured local hopefuls belting out tunes for the restaurant's customers. Bass came in second place, which awarded her the opportunity to sing the national anthem at a Mystics game.

"I was kind of nervous, all those people," she says, adding that the first place prize was studio time.

Another dream for this grandmother to one is to open a nightspot, not necessarily a bar, but somewhere she and others can perform. "Hmm, Angie's Place," she muses.

When asked if her family gets in on the act, she says that her 22-year-old daughter Sophia does sing with her on occasion, but 16-year-old Tyrone would rather play basketball. Husband Billy supports her activities.

"I enjoy singing. I get a lot out of it," she says.

Challenging Images of Native Americans

Film, Discussion Part of Heritage Month

When Charlene Teters was recruited into the University of Illinois graduate program in the late 1980s, she came to the university seeking an art degree. Instead, she was thrust into the spotlight for speaking out against the school mascot, a fictitious Indian "chief" known as Chief Illiniwek.

Teters and her campaign against the use of Native Americans as mascots are the focus of the documentary film "In Whose Honor?" that was shown last Monday during a program sponsored by the Office of Multi-Ethnic Student Education (OMSE) as part of Native American Heritage Month. Teters, a member of the Spokane Nation, went on to found the National Coalition on Racism in Sports and the Media and is now an accomplished artist, writer and lecturer.

Native American university staff members who spoke at the program sent the message that Native Americans are people, not mascots, and that the practice of using their images as mascots is insensitive and disrespectful. The program, which was attended by a handful of staff members and about 40 students from Patterson High School in Baltimore City, also included a discussion and viewing of an ESPN news feature on sports teams that use Native American images as mascots and logos.

Stuart Sparvier, Ellicott Community director for the Department of Resident Life, moderated the program.

Sparvier reinforced the documentary's point that the images of Native Americans displayed through sports logos are stereotypical and inaccurate.

Eagle feathers, for example, are a symbol of honor that are only awarded in a religious ceremony to those who have done something worthy enough to receive them, he said. Only men wear the feathers, yet film, books and other media frequently and inaccurately depict women wearing them, he said.

Some programs, such as University of Illinois, have said that they are using Native American images as symbols, not mascots, and that it is a tribute and honor to Native Americans.

"I don't think it has anything to do with honor," said university staff member Andrianna Stuart of grounds maintenance, who chairs the Indigenous American Student, Alumni, Faculty and Staff Association and is a staff advisor for the Native American Student Union. "It has to do with money and merchandising."

Several students in the audience identified themselves as of Native American descent. Many agreed with Stuart that sports teams' main concerns are financial.

"All they're doing is promoting themselves and making money for themselves," said one student, who identified himself as part Cherokee.

Several college sports teams have changed mascots, beginning with University of Oklahoma in 1970 and continuing with Dartmouth, Syracuse and Stanford. More recent changes came from Miami University of Ohio, which changed from the Redmen to the Red Hawks, and St. John's College, which changed from the Redmen to the Red Storm.

Still, many teams refuse to change.

In the ACC, there is Florida State's "Seminole" mascot.

"Every football season, we have to watch a white person ride up and down the field in this fake regalia," Stuart said. "They band plays the same drum beat over and over... [and that is] supposed to sound like our music."

Locally, there is the Washington Redskins franchise. Stuart urged the students in the audience not to use the team's nickname.

"If you're going to talk about them, just say 'the football team from Washington,' she said.

High schools have generally been more willing to change names than professional and college sports team.

Last year in Montgomery County, for example, Poolesville High School's mascot was officially changed from the Indians to the Falcons after a student vote. The adjustment stirred strong controversy in the small community that in many ways centers around the high school.

"The high school is the community," said Ahnna Smith, a junior government and politics major and 2000 graduate of Poolesville High. The Indian logo was even on the town water tower, she said. "I'm tied to my mascot, I played three sports, but if it offends anyone, it should not be used."

Smith said she lost respect for some of her teachers who spoke out against changing the mascot.

"I felt like we should have just changed it," she said. "Just because you're trying to be non-offensive, doesn't mean you're not offending anyone. It's just ignorance that people cannot see the other side."

—Justyn Kopack, senior, journalism

HIV/AIDS: It is Good Business to Care

Continued from page 1

workforce, as well as consumers, if they neglect to invest in HIV/AIDS services.

"By 2020, the size of the labor force will be 20 to 30 percent smaller in high-prevalence countries," Roberts said.

Roberts explained that the key to heightening awareness in areas like South Africa, Swaziland and India is formal and informal ongoing education.

David Warr, director of international government affairs at Bristol-Myers Squibb agreed that education is critical in the fight against AIDS. His company, which produces treatments for HIV, including Zerit, is highly involved in aiding and educating developing countries. In sub-Saharan Africa, the cost of Zerit is less than \$1 a day.

"We're not there because of the business interest," Warr said, "we're losing money every time we enter the area... it's a philanthropic approach."

Warr is responsible for managing the company's partnership expansion for "Secure the Future," a \$100 million initiative to address HIV/AIDS in women and children in five southern Africa countries.

All three speakers agreed that a major barrier in convincing businesses to take action is the myths that lie behind the disease. Some African cultures believe that raping a six-month-old baby will cure the disease; others believe that using a condom is bad luck. American businesses find it difficult to convince companies in Africa to increase AIDS awareness because of these myths.

In the question and answer segment, audience members, most of who were students of the business school, asked what Americans can do to help raise HIV/AIDS awareness in the United States.

"You can't underestimate the impact of an individual," Roberts said.

Forsythe added that students who have knowledge in management should put their skills to use in non-profit organizations.

In addition to the seminar, an AIDS information desk was set up in the lobby of Van Munching Hall all day. The desk provided free condoms, red AIDS ribbons and information on AIDS issues and the business response to AIDS.

—Jennifer Solecki, junior, journalism

Sharing Shaker Beliefs, Culture Forum Offers Glimpse into "Radical" Way of Life

Most people are unfamiliar with the phrase "pretty little I," a unique concept that rooted in American soil during the 18th and 19th centuries.

The history department helped enlighten students, faculty and guests about its strange origin last Tuesday in the Skinner Building during its usual semester faculty-student forum.

David A. Grimsted, associate professor, gave a theatrical presentation about the Shakers, a sect of Quakers whose so-called "radical" founders immigrated to the New World in 1774 from censorious England. Although

more than 1,000 documented songs to be sung by any number of people. Singing and dancing was a part of everyday Shaker life, he said.

Shakers praised a much different kind of god than most Christians did or ever have, said Grimsted. They rejected the traditional Christian representation of three beings in one God, the Father, Son and Spirit, Grimsted explained to the modest crowd of about 40. Shakers believed that God was both a man and a woman, divine parents to nurture them.

Audience members were visibly surprised. Not many reli-

community. In fact, Grimsted said there is evidence that some of the ex-slaves helped write their songs.

"Everyone had more than enough because no one sought for more than his neighbor," said Grimsted, quoting a contemporary observer of the Shakers.

The crowd nodded when Grimsted discussed the popular notion that completely equal societies can exist. The Shakers were prosperous and ethical business people, he said.

Should people scoff at a society whose quintessential song lyric is "lovely, loving, loved

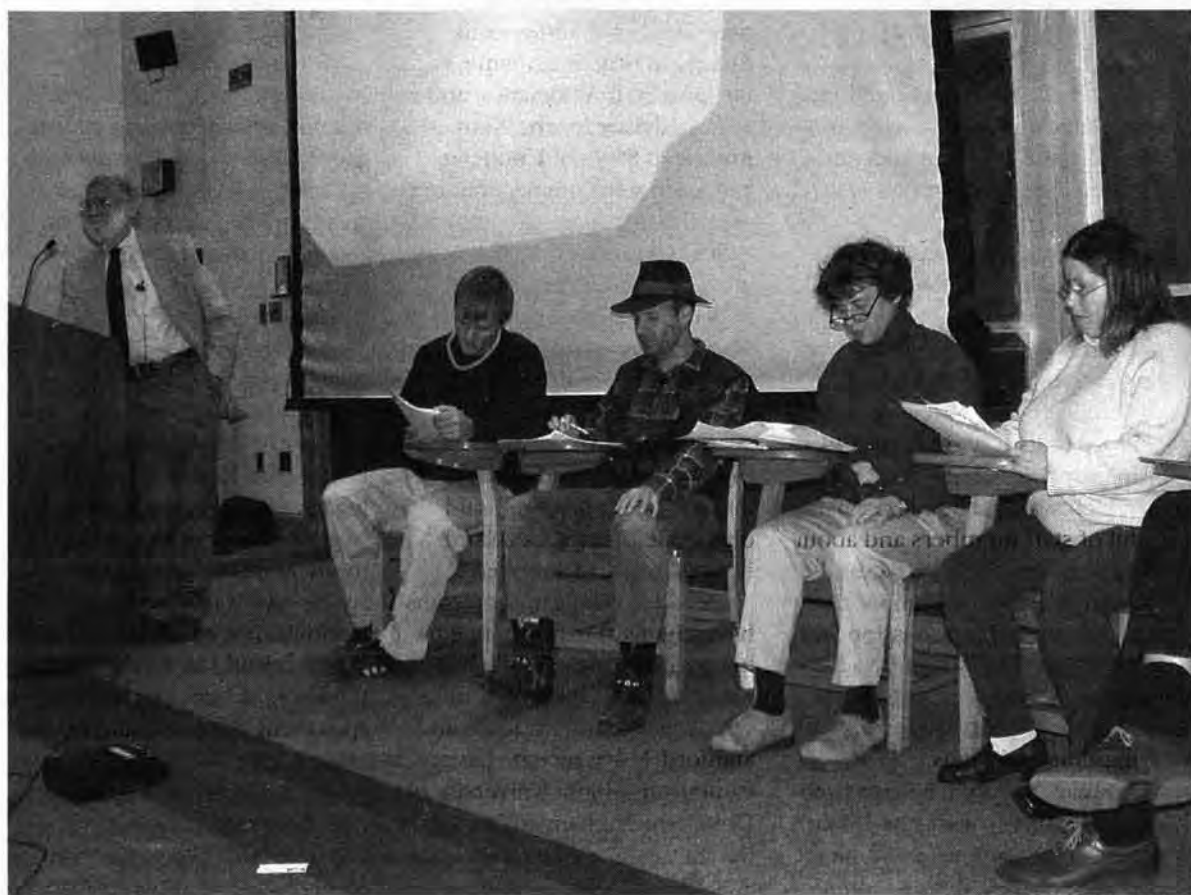


PHOTO BY CYNTHIA MITCHEL

History Professor David A. Grimsted, at the podium, shares the stage with fellow history professors and two undergraduate students who offered a theatrical presentation of Shaker life. Professor Harvey Cohen, second seat from left; Martha Burns, second from right, of Brown University and the Library of Congress; and Prof. Bob Morrow, not pictured, sang Shaker songs.

they endorsed peace and equality, Shakers were persecuted for their reformed views of creation and the second coming, their wild dancing, or shaking and ritual communion with spirits.

These Christians believed true happiness could be won if the "greedy, big I" of egotism and its offspring, capitalism, were abandoned in favor of the humbler "little I." Grimsted said this "little I" represents the Shaker ideal: a life untainted by materialism and greed.

Two other university history professors, Bob Morrow and Harvey Cohen, two undergraduates and guest Martha Burns from Brown University and the Library of Congress, accompanied the talk with song, poetry and journal excerpts, interspersed between Grimsted's narrative about the unusual Shaker lifestyle.

Most of the songs were hymns, in praise of God or the happiness attained through "pure love." The volunteers sang alone or in unison. Grimsted said the Shakers meant their

gions consider the omnipotent being to be part woman.

Gender played a huge role in Shaker society. Mother Ann Lee, who named herself the Second Coming of Christ, is the first founder and all but patron saint of Shaker culture. Women, who Grimsted said made up about three-fifths of the community, were treated equally and allowed to do the same work as men.

In fact, Grimsted noted that it was a Shaker male who invented what is now known as a flat broom, and some Shaker women were known to make tools, such as saws, more effectively.

Grimsted said the Shakers operated under a "Rousseauistic general will." Rousseau, the renowned philosopher and author, abhorred slavery and prejudice. He condemned restrictive, tyrannical states and spoke of man's freedoms as divine gifts.

Shakers, too, rejected government and pursued communal living instead. They welcomed orphans and ex-slaves into their

love?" They liked to drink Mother's wine, sing drinking songs and dance in ways many thought lewd (although, ironically, Shakers were often celibate). What's not to like? Grimsted asked.

At the end of the presentation, he insisted that the crowd join in a popular Shaker tune, "Simple Gifts." Most people sang or hummed along.

"It was just beautiful," said Robyn Muncy, director of undergraduate studies for the history department who organized the forum for her third and final year. Each semester a faculty member is chosen to share a topic of his or her choice.

Near the end of the presentation, Grimsted told a curious audience member that a handful of Shakers remain in the United States. It is a testament to a way of life that most cannot imagine. After final questions, he laughed and dismissed the crowd of "greedy, big Is" to glut themselves on free pizza and soda.

—Jen DeGregorio,
junior, journalism



In Memoriam

Remembering an Artist and a Friend



Stephanie Pogue, professor of art, believed individual expression was key to "universal understanding." She believed in the importance of looking after others and was proud of her heritage. It is all of these things and more that those who love her will miss.

On Tuesday, Nov. 12, Pogue died of cardiac arrest. She was 56.

Pogue came to the Department of Art as an associate professor in 1981. She taught printmaking and drawing, developed a papermaking facility and was a member of the graduate faculty. From 1991 to 1993 she was acting assistant dean for equity affairs in the College of Arts and Humanities, and was chair of the department from 1993 to 1998.

"She was a multidimensional person, a loyal woman of great integrity," said Claudia DeMonte, a fellow professor in the department. "I can't say enough about how warm she was. We will miss her greatly."

Pogue's artwork assessed the human condition and she sought to make connections between people and the word. A "wonderful artist," Pogue exhibited at the Whitney Museum of American Art, "which is the epitome of what could happen to an artist," said DeMonte. Pogue also had her work included in the critically acclaimed exhibit at Spelman College in 1996, "Bearing Witness: Contemporary Works by African American Women Artists." She received a Fulbright Hays Cross-Cul-

tural Fellowship in Curriculum Development and study of the architecture and sculpture of India in 1981. She received a second Fulbright in 1986 to study traditional arts and crafts of Pakistan. In support of her one-woman exhibition in 1991, she received a University of Maryland travel award to Warsaw, Poland. A collector as well as an artist, Pogue had an extensive collection of African-American art.

She was born in Shelby, N.C. On Sept. 27, 1944 to doctor Elbert Hugo Pogue and Mildred Wallace Houser. Raised in Elizabeth, N.J., she went on to attend Syracuse University (1962-63) and Howard University, from which she graduated with her bachelor's of fine arts in painting. She earned a master's in graphics in 1968 from the Cranbrook Academy of Arts in Michigan, going on to join the faculty at Fisk University as an assistant professor and rising to associate, department chair and gallery director before leaving to join Maryland's faculty.

Pogue's life and work will be remembered at a reception today, Dec. 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in The Art Gallery on the second floor of the Art/Sociology Building. Examples of her work will remain on view until 4 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

An award for Department of Art students will be established in Pogue's name. Contact the department for additional information, (301) 405-1445.

For Your Interest

University Libraries Closing

The University Libraries will close at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 24, and reopen on Monday, Jan. 6. They will be closed Jan. 2 and 3 to implement their new online catalog. During this closing, the catalog, with the exception of the patron-placed holds function, will be available by remote access to Libraries' web site. Electronic databases will be accessible with little or no interruption. Interlibrary loan will be disabled on databases from Midnight, Dec. 22 until Jan. 6.

For more information, contact Lori Goetsch at 5-9251 or lgoetsch@deans.umd.edu.



Body Talk

The Center for Political Communication and Civic Leadership is sponsoring a presentation titled "The Dance of Politics" by Prof. Karen Bradley on Friday, Dec. 13 from noon to 1:15 p.m. in room 0200 Skinner. Bradley will discuss her work on the body language of political figures such as George W. Bush, Al Gore, Bill and Hillary Clinton and others. For more information, contact Neil Mansharamani at (301) 405-8976 or neilman73@hotmail.com

Campus Recreation Services Snow Plan

This is designed so that campus residents, and others, may still enjoy CRS services even if the university is closed. However, CRS strongly discourages anyone from driving to, or around, campus in severe weather in order to use CRS recreation facilities. In severe weather, CRS will maintain the following schedules.

If the university opens late:

- CRS Facilities will open when the University opens. All CRS programs will follow their regular schedule after the University opens.
- The CRS office and Member Services office will open when the university opens.

If the university closes early:

- HHP Building, the Outdoor Recreation Center, Ritchie Coliseum, and Reckord Armory will close at school closing.
- The CRC will close at 8 p.m., the Natatorium at 7 p.m.
- The CRS office and Member Services office will close at school closing.
- All CRS programs scheduled after the university closes will

be cancelled or postponed. (Intramural Sports, aerobics classes, Outdoor Recreation clinics, non-credit instruction).

If the university is closed for the day:

- HHP Building, the Outdoor Recreation Center, Ritchie Coliseum and Reckord Armory will be closed.
- The CRC will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Natatorium will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- All CRS programs will be cancelled or postponed.
- The CRS Office and Member Services will be closed.

Note: If the University closes during break, all facilities will be closed.

A Call for Submissions

The Words, Beats & Life Hip-Hop Journal, a print and on-line journal of hip-hop culture, is requesting the submissions of research papers, poems, artwork (including but not excluded to graffiti), media reviews (movies, records, etc), essays, interviews, editorials and beats. Though submissions are accepted on a rolling basis for publication on the Web site, submissions are being accepted for the upcoming inaugural issue of the print version of the journal. All submissions should be sent to: wbljournal2002@hotmail.com by Feb. 1. Please indicate if submissions should be considered for publication in the electronic version and/or print version of the journal. Submissions will be reviewed by a committee composed of undergraduate and graduate students, professors and artists.

The conference is an annual event sponsored by a variety of student organizations, programming committees and academic units. The goal of the first conference was to promote diversity by using hip-hop culture as a unifying vehicle.

The second hip-hop conference was designed to build upon the success of the first by including experiential learning opportunities, panel discussions, keynotes, career fair, a community service project involving rap artists, an academic journal and the creation of a scholarship for a local high school student.

Submission Formats for written work: original scholarship—1,800 words; lyrics/poems—300 words; media reviews (movies, records, etc)—1,200 words; and interviews—1,200 words

Submission formats for audio and visual work: beats—20-40 seconds in CD format; art work—graphic arts design and photos of art in JPG format; photography—can include photos of live performances, fashion shows, breakers, etc.; video interviews—submissions can be as long as 30 minutes submitted in CD-ROM format. CDs and CD-ROMs should be submitted via mail to: Words Beats & Life c/o Mazi Mutafa, 1851 9th ST., NW, Washington DC 20001.

Rankings: Engage Early

Continued from page 1

freshmen enter Maryland unsure of their major, first-year programs play an important role in helping students choose a concentration. Three popular choices come out of the Division of Letters and Sciences: Academic Community Experience (ACE), First-Year Interest Groups (FIGS) and Markets and Society.

"FIGS is brand new," says Javaune Adams-Gaston, associate dean of the Division of Letters and Sciences. "A student only has to determine that they're interested. There isn't a g.p.a. requirement or an application."

FIGS, a living and learning community, gathers students and faculty in a cluster of courses (up to 10 credits) focusing on a theme. Students also take UNIV 100: Introduction to the University. Popular past offerings include Beyond Michael Jordan-Sports in American Society and Advancing Women: Leadership, Learning and Living. Adams-Gaston says one goal of the program is to engage "that middle group of students" that aren't involved in more selective programs or in a learning community at all.

"They are bright students, but there are limited spaces in the premiere programs," she says.

Joelle Carter Davis coordinated the women and leadership cohort as a coordinator for transitional programs, though she is now the program director for diversity, recruitment and retention for the College of Computer, Mathematical and Physical Sciences. She lights up when talking about "her girls" and the bonds formed among the diverse group. They attended a Kathleen Kennedy Townsend rally, held fireside chats and took a field trip to view the Judy Chicago display at the National Women Arts Museum in DC.

"It's about having that community," she says. "They said they felt challenged on their values and identity issues, more so than if they were just here on the campus."

ACE, which was launched as a pilot last summer, aims to give students that same fulfilling experience. Freshmen get a "jump start," Adams-Gaston says, on learning how to think critically by

signing up for two-day academic sessions just before the fall semester. Approximately 125 students moved into the dorms a day early and explored an academic issue. A maximum of 22 students participate in each topic.

Past subjects included looking at the myth of Stars Wars from a philosophical viewpoint and an agricultural session titled "Green Eggs and Ham in Asia," in which Professor Marla McIntosh

made some of the discolored food for students. College of Arts and Humanities Dean James Harris taught a seminar on Jews and Germany.

Adams-Gaston and Davis hope to get brochures about the free program out to new students earlier next summer in an effort to offer ACE to more students. They would also like to offer more seminar choices from a broad range of disciplines.

The third offering from Letters and Sciences is for students interested in business. Markets and Society, which is in its fourth year, is for "students who've expressed an interest in business but didn't get into the Smith school right away," says Adams-Gaston.

"Many of them aren't even sure what that is—business. This gives them real-world exposure. You don't have to have a business degree to go into business."

Both women like the idea of making Maryland a challenging, though welcoming, place for "the average Joe who had a 3.2 grade point average and did well on the SATs," says Davis. Knowing that the university is becoming more selective in its admissions process, they feel it is important to give students not involved in selective programs just as integrated an experience. They haven't yet developed assessment tools for ACE or FIGS, but anecdotal information confirms that they are on the right track.

"Three of my girls have applied to be orientation advisors, two are applying for resident assistant positions and one volunteers at Habitat for Humanity," says Davis. "They've gotten the message that to be whole, you have to be involved."

